

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD BEFORE THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
OCTOBER 21, 2009**

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor William J. Schmitt called the hearing to order at 6:45 p.m.

Roll Call.

Mayor William J. Schmitt	Present
Council members:	
John Schroeder	Present
David Prectel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the hearing, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All the council members were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum for the hearing.

Pledge. Mayor Schmitt invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose. Mayor Schmitt said the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input concerning Ordinance No. 2009-31 that revises the water rates and charges.

A notice about the hearing appeared in the Herald on October 1, 2009. A Notice was also posted at city hall, faxed to the news media, and mailed to the water rural and wholesale customers.

Discussion. General Manager of Utilities Gerald 'Bud' Hauersperger reported that the operating and maintenance fund must maintain a certain balance to meet bonding requirements. In order to maintain that balance they had to take money from the depreciation fund but since the depreciation fund is dwindling the Board decided to do a rate study so that fund can be replenished. The Board then hired Umbaugh to do a rate study for a long term fix. A short term fix is to reduce expenses.

Hauersperger then introduced Deen Rogers from Umbaugh who conducted the rate study. Rogers explained why the recommended 37% rate increase was

necessary. He showed certain graphs from the report and pointed out signs that supported the need to increase the water rates. A 37% increase, which gets applied across the board, would raise an average customer's bill from \$25.91 to \$35.56 per month. Rogers said nothing in the report lends itself to spreading the increase over two years.

Mayor Schmitt said the last evaluation was done in 2004 with the increase being phased in over three years. We are a casualty of our economy. If the economy comes back and usage comes back then this increase may last us.

Mayor Schmitt then asked for public comments. No public comments were received.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council member Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter and seconded by Council member Thomas Schmidt to close the public hearing. The motion carried 7-0 and the hearing closed at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 18th day of November, 2009.

Mayor William J. Schmitt
Presiding Officer

Attest:

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer

Margaret A. Kress, Recording Secretary